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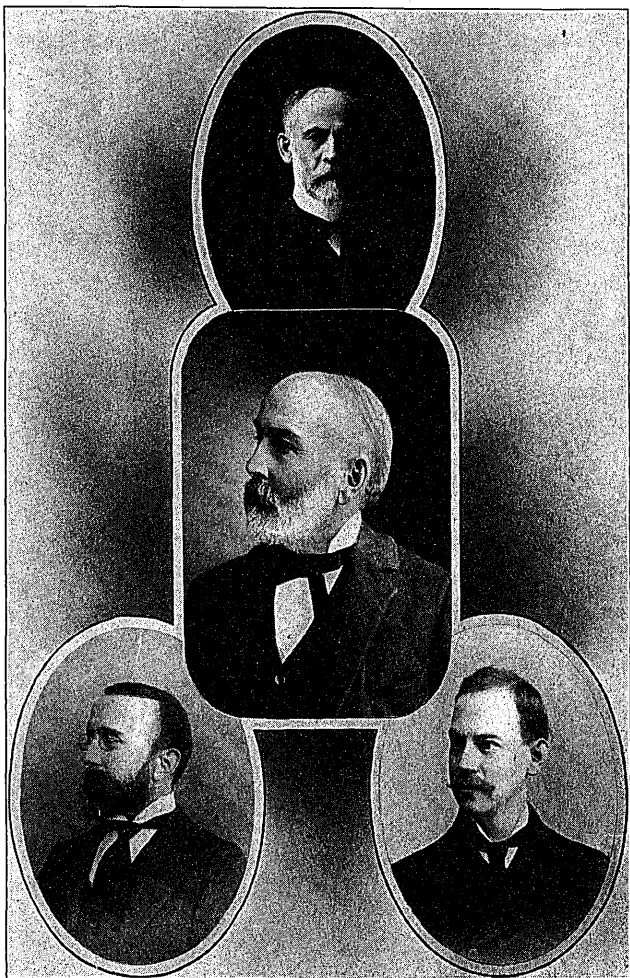


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Twenty-Five Years  
in  
Illinois



**CHAIRMEN OF STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**L. A. TROWBRIDGE  
WATTS DEGOLYER**

**W. A. DOUGLASS**

**WILLIS S. HERRICK**

# Twenty-five Years

in Illinois



A sketch of the work of the  
State Executive Committee of the  
Illinois Young Men's Christian  
Associations, from 1880 to 1905



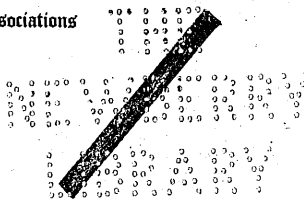
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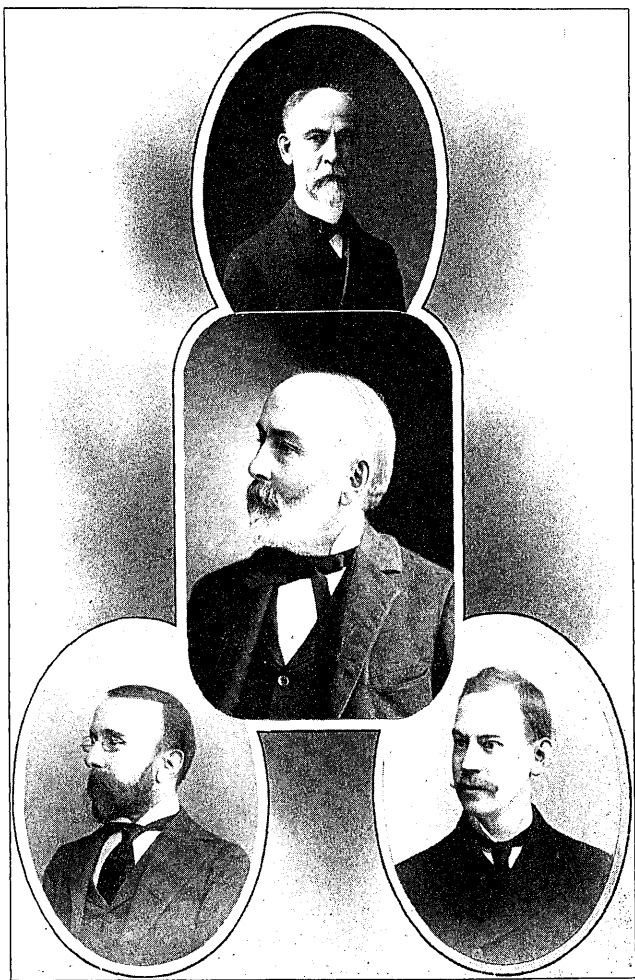
State Executive Committee

Illinois Young Men's Christian Associations

1905

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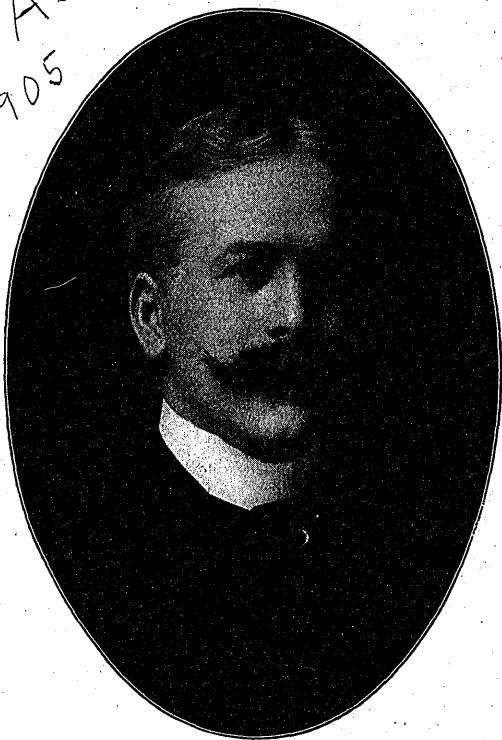
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JOHN E. WILDER  
CHAIRMAN STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FROM 1901

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## Introductory Statement

*Ill. State Executive Committee of the Illinois Young Men's Christian Associations, Chicago. Dec. 17, 1906*

**T**HE State Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Illinois publishes this pamphlet in recognition of a quarter of a century of uninterrupted Association growth and usefulness under the leadership of Mr. I. E. Brown as State Secretary. During all of these twenty-five years the Illinois State Work has been signalized by loyal promotion and protection of fundamental principles which have been found essential to the growth and permanence of the Association movement. By the strength and quality of its activities the State Work in Illinois has become a recognized leader among other States in advancing the highest interests of the brotherhood of Associations.

The policy of the Illinois State organization has been characterized by a sane conservatism in its religious ideals and methods which has increasingly commanded the loyal co-operation of the churches. Business ability, with untiring effort, has resulted in the building of a stable and increasing financial constituency.

The record here printed has been made possible by the remarkable unity and loyalty of the Associations in their united State Work, the untiring efforts of the State Committee and the leadership and counsel of an able and well-trained Secretarial force. It is especially appropriate that proper recognition should be given in this pamphlet to the twenty-five years of uninterrupted service of Mr. I. E. Brown as our State Secretary. To him we are indebted more than to any other, for the achievements and possibilities of our Illinois

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State Work, and these pages are not more a record of the work than a testimonial to his part in it. The future is bright with promise for his continued usefulness and for an even greater development of the Associations of Illinois in their united effort to minister to the religious life of the young men and boys of our beloved State.

EDWARD A. HALSEY. } Committee.  
L. WILBUR MESSER. }

### Chairmen

A. B. WICKER, 1873-1874.

JOHN V. FARWELL, 1874-1878.

R. D. RUSSELL, 1878-1879.

E. S. ALBRO, 1879-1880.

WATTS DEGOLYER, 1880-1882.

W. A. DOUGLASS, 1882-1891.

L. A. TROWBRIDGE, 1891-1895.

WILLIS S. HERRICK, 1895-1901.

JOHN E. WILDER, 1901—

# Historical Sketch of Twenty-five Years in the Illinois Young Men's Christian Associations

By L. W. MESSER

General Secretary of Chicago Association and  
Member of State Executive Committee

*Presented at the State Convention, Bloomington  
October, 1905*

IT was with peculiar pleasure that I accepted the assignment on the program of this Convention to speak on the topic of this hour. My personal obligation to the Illinois Associations and leaders, and my own personal friendship with our State Secretary, has made my task a delightful privilege.

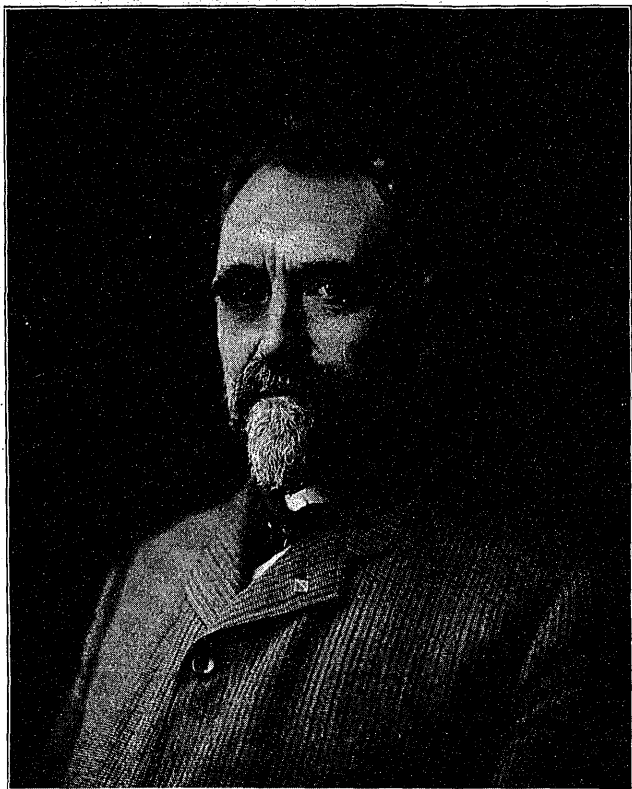
The purpose of this address is not to commemorate the anniversary of the organization of our State work, although the first Convention was held in this city, but to recognize and pay just tribute to the Christian life and service of our honored State Secretary, Mr. Isaac E. Brown.

On the title page, of a recent volume, published as a tribute to the memory of the veteran State Secretary, of New York, Mr. George A. Hall, are the following words from Browning:

One who never turned his back, but marched breast  
forward,

Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, tho' right were worsted, wrong would  
triumph,

Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep  
to wake.



**I. E. BROWN**

**STATE SECRETARY ILLINOIS YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
SINCE JUNE 1, 1880.**

As we review with grateful hearts the development of the Association movement in this State, we do well to present our tribute to our friend and counsellor, the State Secretary, who, for a quarter of a century has been among us, and, we are grateful to say, is still with us in the strength of his manhood and in the midst of an ever expanding work.

#### FIRST PERIOD.

The first State Convention was held at Bloomington, November 6-9, 1873. The report of this Convention mentions among the delegates the following men who were to become prominent Association leaders:

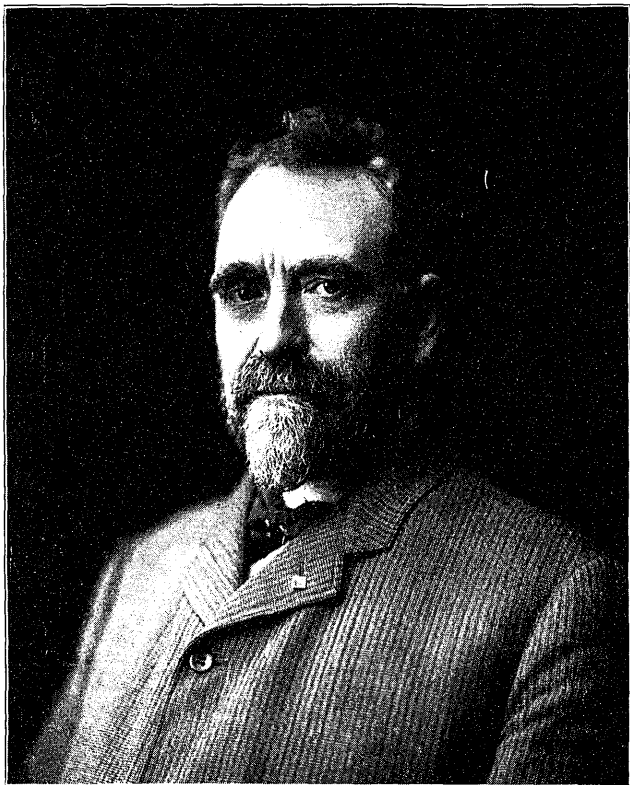
Robert Weidensall, Fleming H. Revell, B. F. Jacobs, and as a delegate from the Normal University, I. E. Brown.

Among the list of speakers we find the names of L. W. Munhall of Indiana, and R. C. Morse of New York. There were fourteen Associations represented by sixty-one delegates.

The Convention appointed a State Executive Committee of three members from Bloomington, one from Normal, one from Champaign, one from Chicago and one from Quincy, or a total of seven. The records show that a subscription of about \$18 was taken for the use of this Committee.

From 1873 to 1886 the work of the Executive Committee chiefly consisted in promoting general evangelistic effort. Among the prominent Christian leaders who were identified with the Convention and with the State work during these years were: D. L. Moody, Major D. W. Whittle, W. W. Van Arsdale, and J. V. Farwell, of Chicago; K. A. Burnell and D. J. Pike of Aurora; A. B. Tyng of Peoria and R. D. Russell, of Jacksonville. During this period Charles M. Morton acted as State Secretary from November 1, 1876, to





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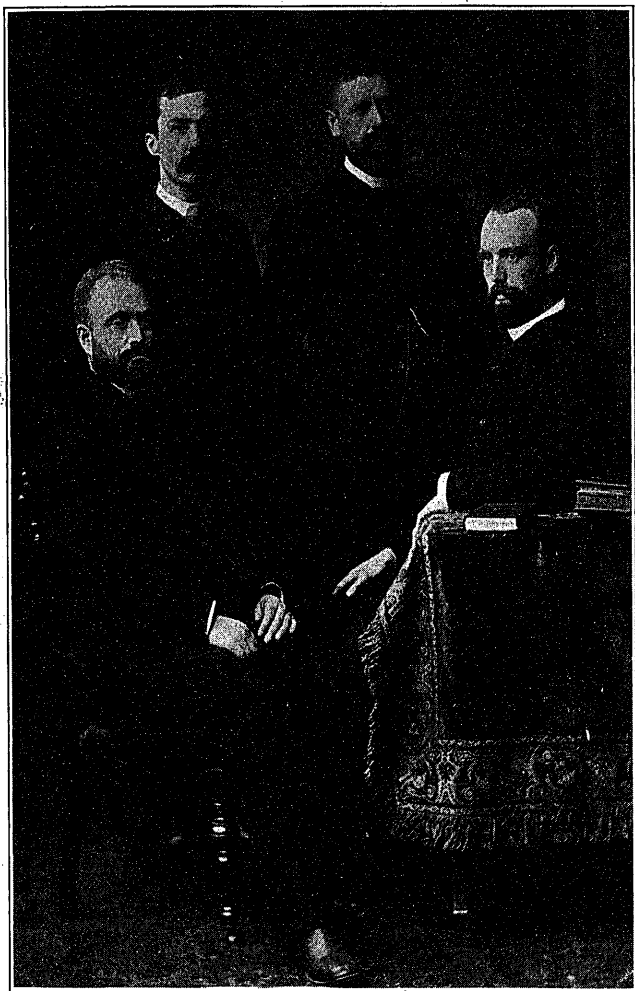
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STATE SECRETARIES, 1887

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evangelists. No very definite program was carried out to accomplish this purpose before 1880. The records show that during this period Mr. I. E. Brown was a sympathetic worker with the movement. The Convention of 1879 was held at Decatur and the call for the Convention by the Decatur Association was signed by I. E. Brown, President. The delegates, when assembled, made Mr. Brown a Vice-President of the Convention. At this Convention E. D. Ingersoll spoke of the need of a State Secretary, and R. D. Russell, the Chairman of the Committee, in a stirring address urged the importance of a State Secretary in order to properly conduct the work. Robert Weidensall was also steadily working to this end. At this Convention Mr. I. E. Brown, who at the Normal Convention in 1878 was made a member of the State Executive Committee, was again elected a member of that Committee.

Your attention is again called to the fact that in this first period of state work little had been accomplished toward effecting a permanent policy for the building of local Associations, a State Secretary having been employed but for a period of one year, and then devoting his time to conducting general evangelistic meetings.

#### SECOND PERIOD.

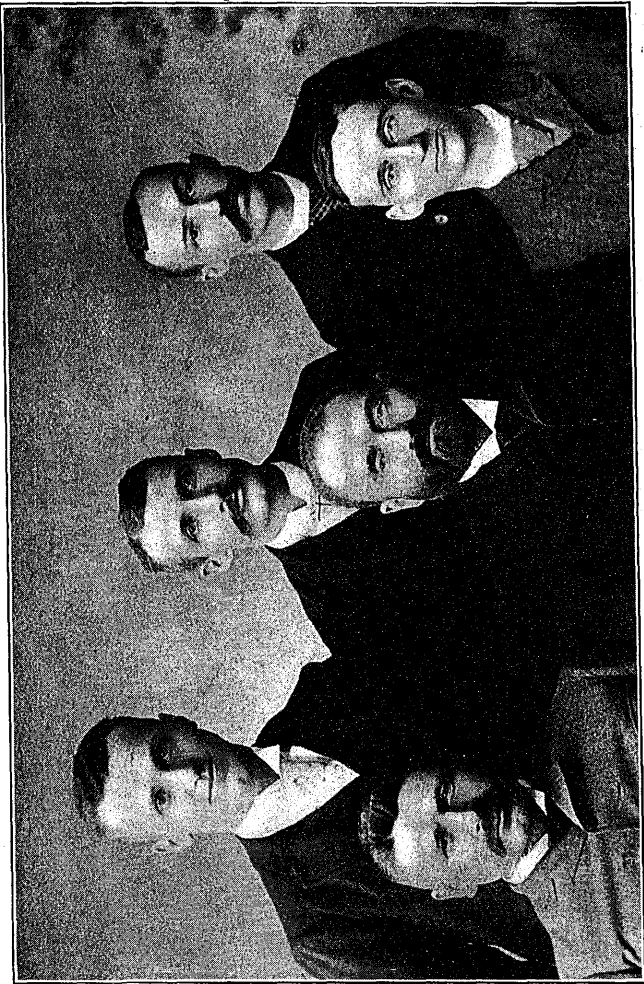
The Convention of 1880 held at Peoria, Illinois, was memorable in several respects. Robert Weidensall was again in evidence as the persistent and untiring promoter of definite Association work. He read a paper at this Convention on the subject, "What is the Legitimate Work of The Young Men's Christian Association?" and said "all Christendom is interested in the answer to this question." His paper stated that the Association "is charged with a specific and very important work—the salvation of young men." He made a plea for the introduction of effort for the

physical, social and mental needs of men, stating that these methods were perfectly legitimate if made subservient to the highest spiritual development. The swing of the pendulum for definite work was further indicated by papers on the subjects: "How to Sustain Young Men's Meetings." "What Work Should a Newly Organized Association Undertake?" There was also a paper on "The Importance of the State and International Work."

At this Convention State Secretary I. E. Brown gave a report of his three months of service, dating from April 16, 1880. Mr. Brown's characteristics are clearly shown in this report. *It had five points.* It showed that he had concentrated his work in a business-like way, in the visitation of Associations, and in ascertaining their conditions and needs. He reported accurately the number of *letters, postal cards and documents he had mailed, and the miles he had traveled.* He stated that six points seemed ready for the formation of new Associations and told of a reviving interest in Association work in general. The spiritual ring which has characterized his work for twenty-five years was indicated by an appeal to "be strong and of good courage, seeking the blessing of the Master." This Convention recommended the reappointment of Mr. Brown and further recommended that \$2,500 be raised to defray the expenses of the State work. In 1881, at the International Convention, Mr. Brown stated the policy of the Executive Committee of Illinois as follows:

1. Find out the exact condition of the present work.
2. Strengthen the present Associations.
3. Increase the number of men interested in State Work.
4. Gain the colleges.
5. Place Secretaries in the larger organized fields.





STATE SECRETARIES, 1889

6. Develop new Associations in the larger centers; especially those above 7,500 population.

7. From these centers reach the smaller places.

The strength to which the Associations of Illinois have attained can be indicated by a comparison of the annual reports of 1904 in this State with the reports of the entire country to the International Committee in 1880. The table is as follows:

|                                                    | Int. 1880.  | Ill. 1904.  |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of buildings .....                          | 58          | 31          |
| Total property, buildings and<br>real estate ..... | \$2,465,100 | \$2,784,855 |
| Net property deducting debt..                      | 1,792,585   | 1,813,531   |
| Students in Bible classes re-<br>ported .....      | 2,140       | 4,650       |
| Secretaries employed .....                         | 178         | 110         |
| Railroad Secretaries .....                         | 26          | 14          |
| Student Associations .....                         | 96          | 44          |
| Gymnasiums ..... (not reported)                    |             | 38          |

The distinctive characteristics of the work of the State Executive Committee of the Illinois Associations from 1880 to date have been so prominent and the work so effective in results as to command the attention of the entire Association brotherhood. These special characteristics include *first, the emphasis on definite work by young men among young men.* No small amount of courage was necessary in the Association leader who stood for this policy in the early eighties. The Association movement, outside of New York City, was mainly controlled by evangelists and mission workers. The work of these Christian leaders in and through The Young Men's Christian Associations was productive of important results. It was very natural that Christian laymen who had been moved to engage in aggressive Christian work for their fellows should center in the buildings of the larg-

STATE SECRETARIES, 1889



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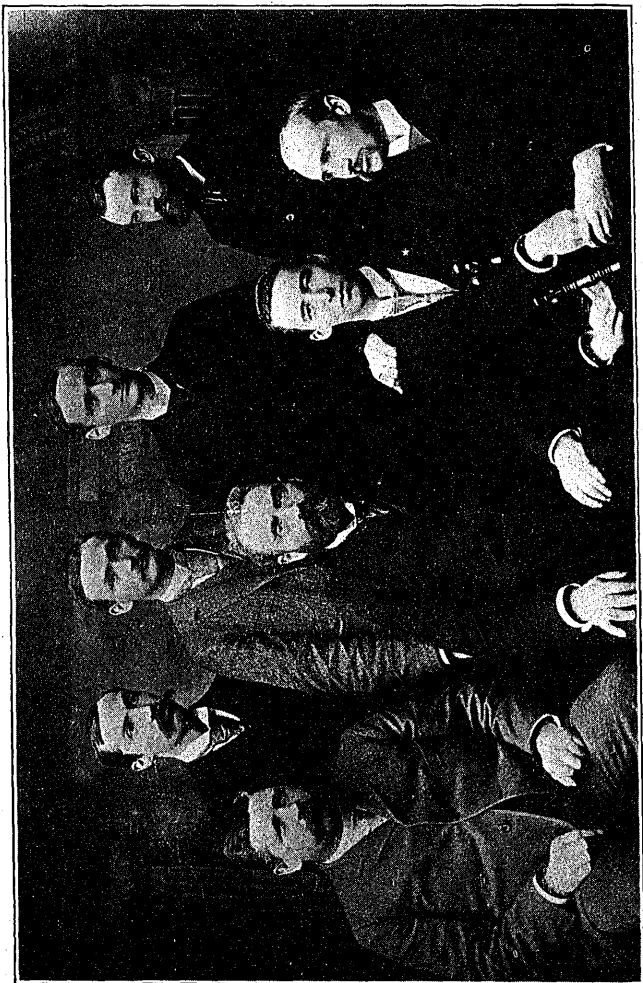
est and most influential organization of Christian laymen then in existence. Many of the Associations were an outgrowth of union revival services where the forces were led by evangelistic speakers and singers. The Constitution of the Chicago Association, as late as 1888, stated as its object: "The spiritual, intellectual and social improvement of all within its reach, irrespective of age, sex or condition, but especially of young men." The Associations in those years stood for everything that was good, becoming centers for general religious and philanthropic effort. Emphasis was placed upon aggressive evangelism for all classes, with special reference at times to young men. The fervor and sacrifice of these early leaders gave to the Associations as a movement of Christian laymen an impetus and standing which made possible the larger achievements of later years in more definite lines. The Associations cherish the memory of men of differing views who formed an inter-denominational movement which was to result in the rapid development of a mighty brotherhood. The evangelistic leaders, however, as a rule were not friendly to restricting the Association's activities to work among young men. Previous to 1880 the Rockford Association was alone in a policy of definite work. October 21st, 1881, twenty-four years ago this very evening, I was introduced to my first Association field at Peoria by our State Secretary, Mr. Brown. I had been thoroughly indoctrinated in the East by representatives of the International Committee, by Mr. Robert R. McBurney of the New York Association and by Mr. J. T. Bowne, with whom I had studied at Newburgh, on the necessity of standing for a definite work with young men. Mr. Brown re-emphasized the necessity of this policy and from that night we stood together in promoting this object among the Associations of this State. The Peoria Association was developed along these lines and the suc-

cess attending the Illinois policy, which was not approved at that time by the Chicago and other Associations in the State, had an important influence in shaping the general trend of the movement throughout the country. No better service was ever rendered the Associations of this State than that given by Mr. Robert Weidensall, when, with a conviction which was born of God, he urged Mr. Brown to leave his important position as a teacher in the Decatur High School to become the State Secretary of the Associations of Illinois. Mr. Weidensall had been consistently pressing the definite Association policy and had found in Mr. Brown a man after his own heart, who thoroughly believed in the principles for which he stood. The new Associations, organized after Mr. Brown's connection with the work, were placed on the right basis and as rapidly as possible the older Associations were brought to change their objects and methods in harmony with definite work for men.

2. A second characteristic of this period was the starting in Peoria of the first movement in the West for the training of secretaries. In the state report of 1882 I find this paragraph: "Feeling the need of more systematic training of young men for the secretarial work, arrangements were made in February last with the Peoria Association whereby young men may, under the direction of the General Secretary, pursue the course of reading and study suggested by the International Committee. A beginning has been made in collecting Association literature. Already five young men have made use of the advantages thus offered. The first four are engaged as general secretaries at Jacksonville and Monmouth, Illinois, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Baraboo, Wisconsin. one serving as temporary secretary at Mattoon."

In the report of 1883 we read, relating to this course of studies for secretaries, that "six young men looking

STATE SECRETARIES, 1891

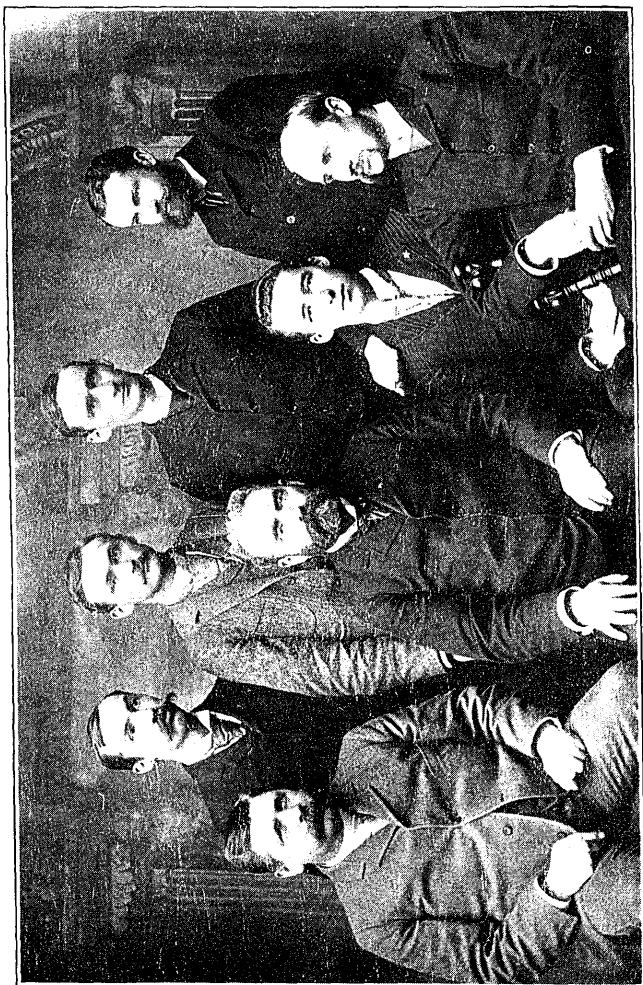


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The diary of Mr. Brown has this entry under date of February 20th, 1882: "Planning for school for secretaries at Peoria." After the resignation of the General Secretary then at Peoria this work was discontinued, but the courses of reading and the library and documents which had been collected were transferred to the office of the State Committee in Chicago, and later to the custody of the Chicago Training School. The organization of this school in Chicago, which was afterwards merged with the Western Secretarial Institute, and is now known as the Institute and Training School, was mainly due to the suggestions and efforts of Mr. Brown, who had also been one of the founders and promoters of the Institute at Lake Geneva. For thirteen years Mr. Brown was President of the Institute at Geneva, and for six years President of the Faculty of the Training School in Chicago. During all of these years Mr. Brown has been a regular instructor in the School in Chicago and in the Summer Institute at Lake Geneva. The Associations of Illinois, through the State Executive Committee, thus became responsible to a very large extent for the founding and development of these important educational institutions.

3. The State Executive Committee established an office in Chicago in 1887 and was the pioneer among state organizations in concentrating and organizing the state work at such an office. The plan of organization and the methods of this office work have been studied and followed by many other states. Accuracy and thoroughness have always characterized the business methods of this office. The usual method fol-





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lowed in the state work at that time was the "in the saddle" method, with practically no office supervision. The new policy of the Committee was to bring to the state office for conference as far as possible representatives of the Associations who needed the assistance of the Committee, thus saving the time and expense of state officers.

4. The first Assistant State Secretary was employed in 1884, and in 1887 what is known as the departmental work was organized. This, too, was an innovation and was dicountenanced generally by other states. Departmental work is now a feature of all state organizations.

The Student Department has been most effective in extending the assistance of the state organization to the students of our colleges, and the Railroad Department has been equally aggressive in its line of work. I am informed that the type of railroad building which is now most generally used in the country, was first adopted by the Peoria Railroad Department.

5. What is known as the Corresponding Member plan was originated by the Illinois State Committee in 1886. This was an important development in uniting the small towns and communities of the state to the general Association movement. Corresponding members are now found in 1,134 communities. The value of this work, which has been chiefly developed under the persistent and intelligent direction of Mr. L. A. Bowman, will be best evidenced by reading a quotation from a letter recently received at the state office by one of our Association Secretaries: "I called upon the young man in question at once upon receiving your letter and found him at work. He confessed to being homesick and declared that he would work it off by seeing the sights of the great and to him as yet

unexplored city. He was not interested in religious matters, did not care to come to our building or attend any religious services; said, however, that I might assist him in securing a boarding house. This I was able to do with a good Christian family who at once made him feel right at home, and took such an interest in him that as he told me the other day he has had no time or inclination to do other than stay at home nights. He further says that if it had not been for the good people where he stays he would have surely 'gone to the dogs.' I shall keep in touch with him and report progress later. Thanking you for the privilege of being of some little service to the young man."

6. In the same year, 1886, what is known as "the young men's Sunday" was adopted. This movement has been productive of reaching vast numbers of young men in evangelistic meetings and in educating many communities as to the need and value of the Association.

7. The first county organization was formed in the State of Illinois. While the organization was not permanent the results in Mason County were sufficiently encouraging for the adoption of a permanent plan for extending county work. Other states followed the example thus furnished and the persistent efforts of Mr. Weidensall have been largely successful in this comparatively new Association extension.

It is my belief that the first industrial and street railway work was conducted by the old Bridgeport Department of the Chicago Association during the years of 1889 to 1892. The Illinois Steel Co, and the Street Railway Co. each contributed \$100 a month for its support. The work was entirely among the employes of these two corporations.



STATE SECRETARIES, 1896

During this period another department was conducted for some five years among the Illinois Steel Company's men at South Chicago, with an appropriation of \$100 a month for its support. Both of these points were later abandoned on account of the withdrawal of the support from the corporations, which, through a changed management, were unsympathetic with the Association effort.

8. The contribution of the Illinois Associations to the secretaryship outside our own state is worthy of mention: "In the International force there are found W. E. Lougee, who did his first secretarial work in Illinois; Harry O. Hill, who was born and educated in Illinois, and had his first Association experience at Northwestern University; Ethan T. Colton, who was Student Secretary in Illinois; and among the foreign secretaries, Louis Hieb, who was Intercollegiate Secretary in Chicago; B. R. Barber, who was State Student Secretary, besides George Benton Smith, who was State Student Secretary and then for six years under the International Committee at Madras, India.

Of the thirty-four State and Provincial Secretaries in the country, six are from Illinois; while four Illinois men are Assistant State Secretaries in three other states.

Illinois has furnished one County Secretary to Kentucky. A rapid examination of the list of Secretaries reveals Illinois men in local fields in Manitoba, Connecticut, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin.

In the struggles of the Association paper, known in the earlier years as *The Watchman*, and later as *Asso-*



STATE SECRETARIES, 1896

During this period another department was conducted for some five years among the Illinois Steel Company's men at South Chicago, with an appropriation of \$100 a month for its support. Both of these points were later abandoned on account of the withdrawal of the support from the corporations, which, through a changed management, were unsympathetic with the Association effort.

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ciation Men, Mr. Brown gave much of his time as an adviser and later as a director of the paper. Whatever of value attaches to the paper at the present time must be very largely attributed to the heroic self-sacrificing work which was done by Illinois men in educating the Association constituency to the need and value of such a periodical.

9. The most significant test in this sweep of twenty-five years of the Illinois State work under the continuous leadership of Mr. Brown is not alone seen in the present number of Associations, the value of property, or the diversified activities, but in the accomplishment of the fundamental purpose of the organization, the spiritual improvement of young men. A careful review of the records of this quarter of a century, as tabulated in the State office, enables me to present this most interesting statement:

In the earlier years of the present State work, many hundred professed conversions were reported of which no exact record was kept. At the time of the Decatur Convention in 1897, a careful record and estimate showed that over 20,000 had been reported. The exact statistics began to be compiled in the year 1886. The table below gives the number reported from 1886 to 1905. There should be added, however, the reports of the earlier years which formed a basis of the report in 1897.

In 1881, after the first full year of State work, the annual report states that ten Associations report conversions, but no numbers are given.

The report for 1882 says, "Our hearts have been cheered during these twelve months by reports of conversions from twenty-five Associations, and doubtless others have been so blessed although not reported." The Chairman of the State Executive Com-

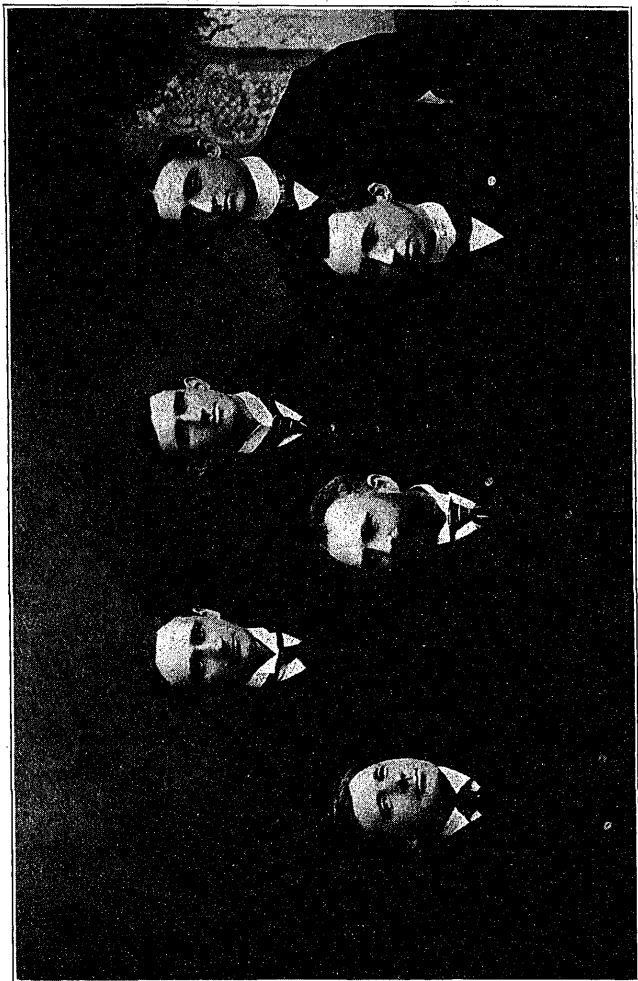
mittee also says, "One special feature during the past year has been a wide-spread religious interest in many places, assuming the character of a positive revival work, as at Monmouth, Kirkwood and Hedding College, where many souls for the first time accepted Christ." The revival started in a student conference held in Monmouth College, February 19th, 1882, under the leadership of Rev. Alexander Patterson. In the diary of Mr. Brown under date of February 19th, are these words: "Wonderful day—forty accepted Christ. On the previous day I met with a group of Monmouth men and helped to organize the Monmouth City Association. From this meeting I went direct to Peoria to confer regarding the School for Secretaries."

It is known that at Monmouth there were 400 professed conversions, and Kirkwood, Roseville and other nearby points 600 more, although no record was kept of the number of these who were young men. The Quarterly Report for the last quarter of 1881 says: "Revivals in connection with our work are reported from Chicago, Naperville, Paxton, Gibson City, Pontiac and Lincoln, and conversions from Peoria, Rockford, Vandalia, Springfield and other fields."

The report of 1883 states that, "In the College Associations alone 209 professed conversions were reported during the year, and several hundred have been reported from the City and Town Associations and Railroad branches."

In 1884 the report speaks of the spiritual fruitfulness of the meetings, with probably not less than 1,200 professed conversions.

In 1885 it is stated that "The first three months of 1885 saw nearly 500 professed conversions in connection with our Associations, and since that time,



STATE SECRETARIES, 1900

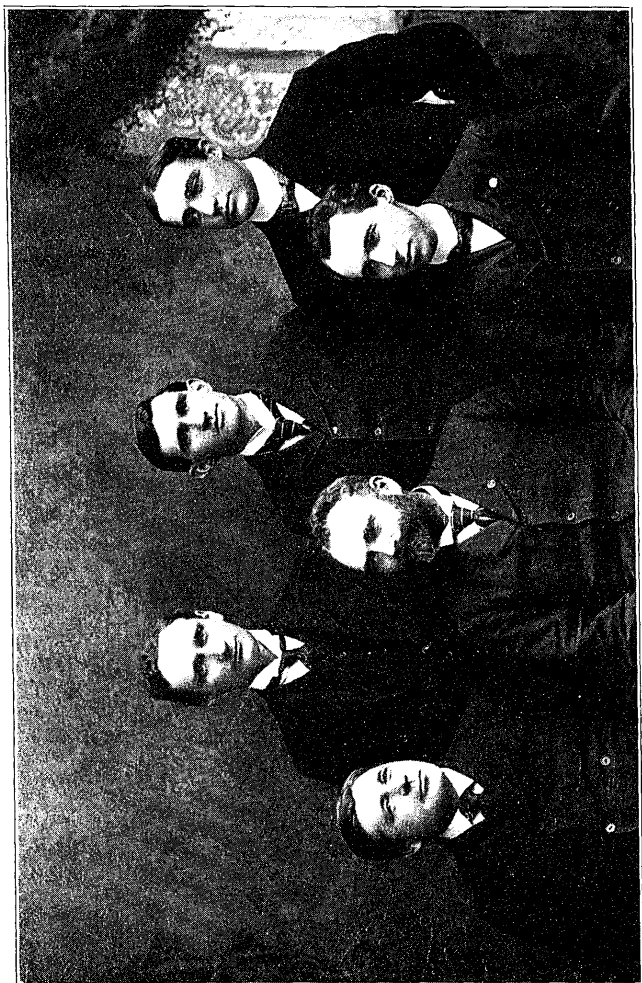
reports have come in almost constantly of one at this point and two or three at another who have accepted Christ." There is also added this statement, "The growth in definiteness of work has been most cheering. In June, 1880, there seemed to have been only five Associations having young men's meetings, now more than forty have such meetings."

In 1886 we have the first definite statistics regarding the professed conversions of young men and boys. This report shows the transition as it states "Thirty report 1,277 professed conversions. Reports state that 974 of these were young men and boys."

|           |       |           |       |           |       |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1886..... | 974   | 1893..... | 1,226 | 1900..... | 684   |
| 1887..... | 1,491 | 1894..... | 1,966 | 1901..... | 632   |
| 1888..... | 1,493 | 1895..... | 1,459 | 1902..... | 766   |
| 1889..... | 1,441 | 1896..... | 1,287 | 1903..... | 762   |
| 1890..... | 1,480 | 1897..... | 1,312 | 1904..... | 1,418 |
| 1891..... | 1,472 | 1898..... | 1,212 | 1905..... | 1,340 |
| 1892..... | 1,709 | 1899..... | 577   |           |       |

This makes a total of 27,331 during the twenty-five years.

It is difficult at any time to do justice in describing the traits and qualities of a good and successful man. The record of the Illinois State work to a very large extent is the life record of I. E. Brown, and this work speaks for itself. Twenty-five years ago this pedagogue had a heavenly vision to which he was not disobedient. He turned aside from his chosen work as a teacher when he heard the divine command, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel." In the preaching of that gospel he chose to give his life to an organization which has more broadly and sanely interpreted this gospel to young men than any other agency of the church. He has been "steadfast and unmoveable," as some have learned to their discomfort



STATE SECRETARIES, 1900

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at times, steering the ship of which he was pilot according to the true compass of divine inspiration and approved Association experience. When tempted, as he has been tempted, to turn aside to lucrative professional, business and Association openings, he has replied with the words of his Master: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" He has been conservative in departing from old policies and convictions touching Association work, but he has been *consistent to his convictions*. "What is it that makes a man? Is it not faith, unbending rectitude, self-control, a symmetrical development of his faculties and a social service for the betterment of humanity?"

In a recent paper read by Mr. Brown before the Secretarial Conference of the Chicago Association, on the personal qualifications of a volunteer leader, there has been stated fundamental qualifications of a secretarial leader as well. This paper is to be printed in the next number of the Official Bulletin of the Chicago Association, and from the proof sheet I quote some of the necessary characteristics as seen by Mr. Brown, of a man who stands in the place of leadership in this great Christian organization.

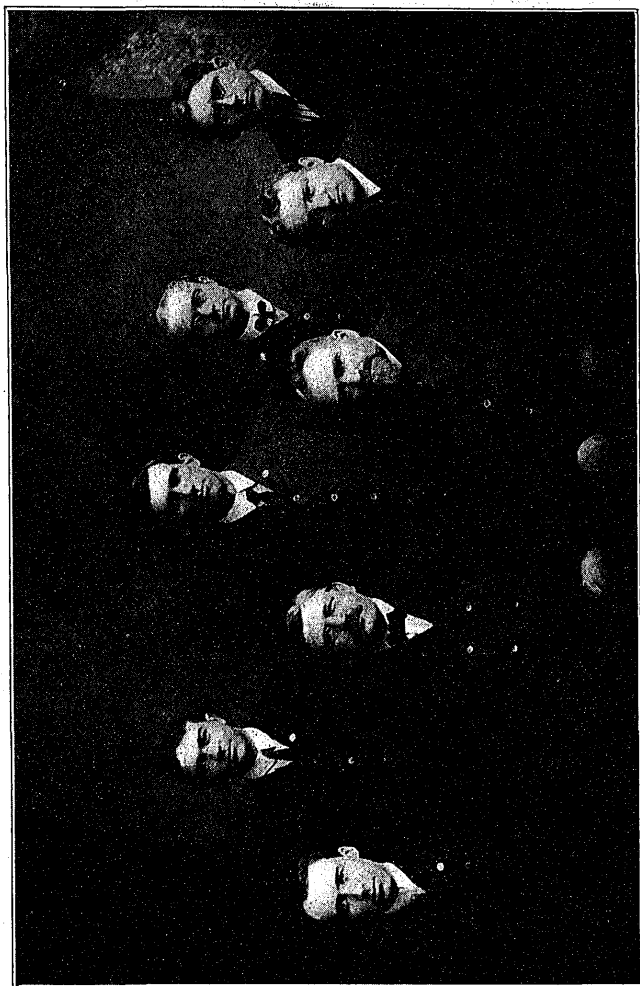
"He must be a Christian preeminently, Christian in doctrine, life and activity. The Christian purpose of the organization must not be with him an outside matter, but must be held in firm grasp in hand and heart. He must have convictions regarding the Young Men's Christian Association, regarding the need for such a specialized form of activity, realizing the dangers which beset young manhood, and familiar with modern conditions touching the life of young men. He must recognize the fact that the Young Men's Christian Association is a providential organization

of the church, to supply the needs of young manhood. He must be a broad man, with broad intelligence regarding the great world movements, politics and literature and commerce. He must have a broad touch with all lines of activity for the betterment of men. He must be a man of vision, with ability to see the future. He must be a man of action, with tactful persistence that alone wins great victories."

These qualities to a large degree are possessed by our State Secretary, whom we love and honor tonight. Such qualities have naturally and properly made him a leader of International influence. That he has had the confidence of his own associates and brethren is indicated by the unruffled harmony which has existed in the state work of Illinois for this quarter of a century. In behalf of the State Executive Committee, in behalf of the secretaries of the secretarial brotherhood of this state, in behalf of the local Associations and their great membership, in behalf of the pastors and churches in the whole state, I congratulate Mr. Brown on what his eyes have seen of the power of God in and through this work of a quarter of a century. And the best of all is that we are able to bespeak for Mr. Brown and for the State work of Illinois, with which he must be a part for many years to come, a Godspeed for the future.

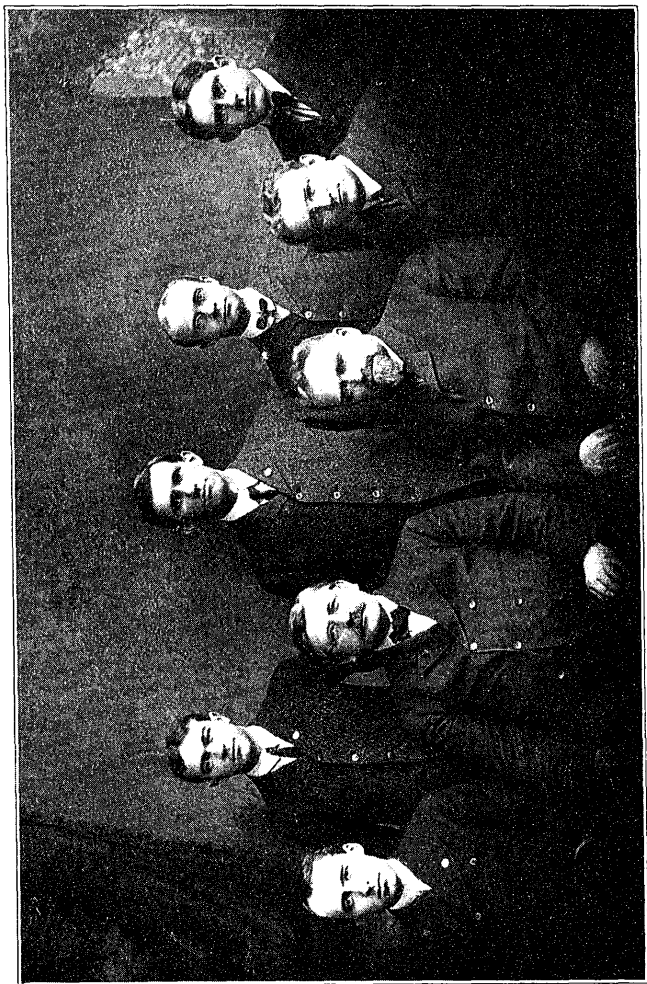
I seem to hear ringing through the air the words of the Lord unto the prophet of old: "Every place that the soles of your feet shall tread upon, that have I given unto you. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life." "Be strong and of a good courage, for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land which I swore unto their fathers to give them." "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do





STATE SECRETARIES, 1903

according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded thee; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."



STATE SECRETARIES, 1903

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## Historical Sidelights

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ADDRESS BY

F. H. BURT

Formerly Assistant State Secretary

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*At Bloomington Convention, 1905*

**T**HREE characteristics of the quarter of a century which is now in review before us stand out most clearly to me:

First, The memory of the men who, through the agency of this Illinois state' work, have been led to devote themselves, either to Christian service as a life calling or in volunteer service have been led to a far higher plane of efficiency and usefulness.

I remember a Saturday evening on the occasion of a district conference in a city in the northern part of the state. The State Secretary had occasion to send a telegram. He invited one of the younger delegates to that conference to walk with him to the telegraph office. On the way there and back he opened to that young man the possibilities of making the Association work his life calling. Correspondence and further interviews succeeded the first interview. It ended by his accepting a call to an Association position in Illinois. That interview went far toward determining the life trend of that young man. He is only one of many. Through these twenty-five years, in the home, on the street, at conferences and at conventions, in hotels and offices, by day and by night, the question of one's stewardship of his life and all that

is involved in this has been brought to scores and hundreds of men through the officers of this Illinois State Committee and through influences set in motion by these officers. The result of this single phase of activity can never be fully known.

Second, Not only have men been led into Christian service, but many, after having been led in, have been sent out into other fields of usefulness. Men who have thus received a part, and in most cases a valuable part, of their training in the Illinois work are now to be found in very many of the states of our land as well as in a number of the lands beyond the seas. These men are to be found, not only in Association callings, but in the ministry and in other forms of professional and business life. Many are the men who cherish as a most valued part of their lives the years spent in the work of the Illinois Associations, and no small part of the value came from their relations with the Illinois State Secretary and his associates.

Third, It was a critical time in the history of the Illinois State work when its State Secretary, feeling keenly the financial strain involved in the maintenance of this State work and in the almost constant travel required, gave favorable consideration to a call extended to him to accept a chair of instruction in the Springfield Training School, and tendered his resignation to the State Committee. He was, however, finally prevailed upon to reconsider his action and to remain in Illinois.

The consideration given by him at this time to the subject of professional training for the employed Association officer undoubtedly led to the establishment of this department of what is now the Institute and Training School of Young Men's Christian Asso-

ciations. It was early in the year 1890 that Mr. Brown presented to a group of employed officers of the Chicago Association called together by him, the idea of establishing in Chicago a school for the training of employed Association officers. The idea met with favor. The necessary steps were taken. The school first opened its doors to students in the fall of that same year. During the past year one hundred and thirty-six were enrolled in the classes of the Institute and Training School thus quietly begun, and in the men assembled in the opening session of the 1905 fall term in Chicago were representatives from sixteen different states, ranging from Maine in the East to California in the West.

We may well rejoice at the record of progress which the quarter of a century has established. Of this record no part is more enduring than that which is found in the lives of men established and trained in the Christian life and effort and sent forth in such life.

# GROWTH OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

|                                           | 1880      | 1885      | 1890      | 1895        | 1900        | 1905        |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Associations and Departments on List..... |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Membership .....                          | 16        | 65        | 85        | 111         | 115         | 105         |
| Associations owning Buildings.....        | 2,393     | 7,805     | 12,439    | 14,283      | 17,121      | 22,300      |
| Value of Buildings, Lots and Funds        | 2         | 4         | 11        | 15          | 22          | 31          |
| paid in .....                             |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Value of Buildings, Lots and Funds        | \$122,500 | \$254,585 | \$863,215 | \$2,430,250 | \$2,717,005 | \$2,746,650 |
| paid in (Less Debts).....                 |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Number of Paid Employees.....             | \$119,550 | \$243,985 | \$804,415 | \$1,670,550 | \$1,841,275 | \$1,787,315 |
| Number of Gymnasiums.....                 | 13        | 34        | 68        | 84          | 87          | 104         |
| Number of Social Gatherings.....          | 1         | 7         | 22        | 32          | 38          | 40          |
| Number of Lectures and Entertainments..   | 74        | 97        | 157       | 338         | 295         | 510         |
| Number of Educational Classes.....        | 71        | 78        | 171       | 240         | 310         | 382         |
| Number of Religious Gatherings, Men       | 5         | 20        | 38        | 90          | 112         | ....*       |
| Only (per week).....                      |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Total Gross Attendance at all Religious   | 5         | 74        | 175       | 208         | 258         | ....*       |
| Meetings.....                             |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Number of Men and Boys in Bible Classes   | ....      | ....      | ....      | ....        | ....        | 245,529     |
| Number of Men and Boys in Educational     | ....      | ....      | ....      | ....        | ....        | 2,492       |
| Classes .....                             |           |           |           |             |             |             |
| Number of Towns having Corresponding      | ....      | ....      | ....      | ....        | ....        | 2,321       |
| Members .....                             | ....      | ....      | 230       | 402         | 737         | 1,053       |

\* Change in system of recording statistics.

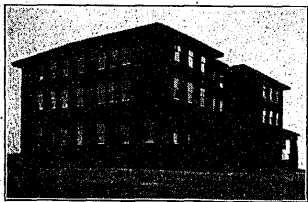


# LIST OF STATE SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANTS

| NAME                 | TIME OF SERVICE |                | PRESENT LOCATION                               |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                      | BEGAN           | LEFT           |                                                |
| 1 I. E. Brown.....   | June 1, 1880    | Sept. 14, 1884 | Ass't Pastor, Brooklyn, N. Y.                  |
| 2 F. H. Jacobs.....  | July 7, 1884    | Sept. 15, 1887 | Prof. of Pedagogy, U. of Cal., Berkeley.       |
| 3 E. E. Brown.....   | Sept. 15, 1884  | Sept. 30, 1894 | In business, Paris, Ill.                       |
| 4 W. F. Levings...   | May 15, 1886    |                |                                                |
| 5 A. M. Bruner.....  | Jan. 1, 1887    |                |                                                |
| 6 S. F. Wishard....  | April 3, 1888   | Aug. 5, 1889   | In evangelistic work, Minnesota.               |
| 7 R. H. Shanks....   | July 1, 1888    | Oct. 31, 1888  | In business, Winnipeg, Manitoba.               |
| 8 W. H. Gebhardt..   | Feb. 15, 1889   | Mar. 24, 1890  | In business, Racine, Wis.                      |
| 9 F. H. Burt.....    | June 15, 1889   | Dec. 10, 1900  | Pres't Institute and Training School, Chicago. |
| 10 G. N. Taylor....  | Sept. 5, 1889   | Oct. 1, 1891   | Died May 26, 1893.                             |
| 11 L. A. Bowman...   | March 6, 1890   |                |                                                |
| 12 J. V. Read.....   | Sept. 24, 1890  | Mar. 31, 1895  | State Secretary of Georgia.                    |
| 13 A. T. Stephens... | Oct. 24, 1891   | Sept. 1, 1894  | Pastor Congregational Church, Lacon, Ill.      |
| 14 A. G. Copeland... | Sept. 1, 1895   | Nov. 1, 1898   | In business, Chicago, Ill.                     |
| 15 G. B. Smith.....  | Sept. 1, 1895   | Oct. 31, 1897  | In business, New Britain, Conn.                |
| 16 B. R. Barber....  | Sept. 1, 1898   | June 30, 1899  | College Secretary, Calcutta, Ind.              |
| 17 E. C. Anderson... | Oct. 15, 1898   | Sept. 15, 1899 | In business, Chicago, Ill.                     |
| 18 E. T. Colton....  | Sept. 1, 1899   | June 15, 1900  | College Secretary, International Committee.    |
| 19 K. A. Shumaker..  | Sept. 1, 1899   |                |                                                |
| 20 W. W. Dillon....  | Sept. 1, 1900   | July 31, 1904  | Assistant State Secretary of California.       |
| 21 W. P. England...  | Dec. 5, 1900    | May 15, 1902   | General Secretary, Racine, Wis.                |
| 22 J. R. Messner.... | Aug. 20, 1901   | Sept. 15, 1905 | In business, Chicago, Ill.                     |
| 23 E. M. Thomasson.  | July 1, 1902    |                |                                                |
| 24 B. B. Wilcox....  | Sept. 1, 1903   | Dec. 31, 1903  | State Secretary of California.                 |
| 25 W. A. McKnight..  | Sept. 1, 1904   |                |                                                |



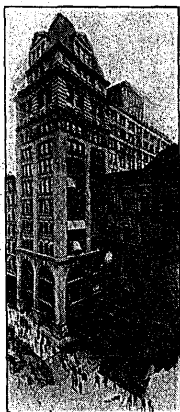
C. & N. W. R. R.



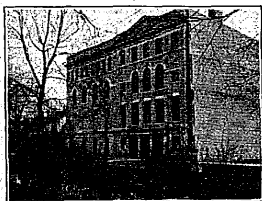
C. & E. I. R. R.



WEST SIDE



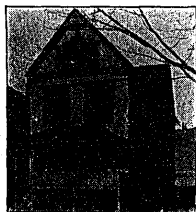
CENTRAL



WILSON AVENUE



GRAND TRUNK R. R.



PENNSYLVANIA LINES R. R.

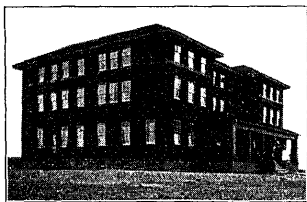
**GROUP OF BUILDINGS I**  
**CHICAGO BUILDINGS—ALL DEPARTMENTS**

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| 9 F. H. Burt.....     | June 15, 1889   | Oct. 1, 1891   | Died May 26, 1893.                             |
| 10 G. N. Taylor.....  | Sept. 5, 1889   |                |                                                |
| 11 L. A. Bowman....   | March 6, 1890   | Mar. 31, 1895  | State Secretary of Georgia.                    |
| 12 J. V. Read.....    | Sept. 24, 1890  | Sept. 1, 1894  | Pastor Congregational Church, Lacon, Ill.      |
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| 23 E. M. Thomasson..  | July 1, 1902    | Dec. 31, 1903  | State Secretary of California.                 |
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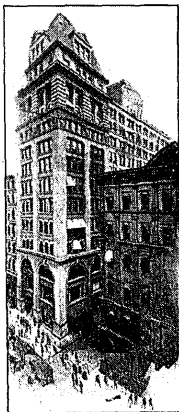
C. & N. W. R. R.



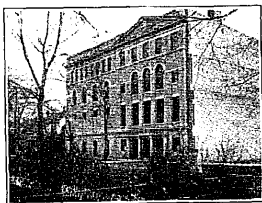
C. & E. I. R. R.



WEST SIDE



CENTRAL



WILSON AVENUE



GRAND TRUNK R. R.



PENNSYLVANIA LINES R. R.

**GROUP OF BUILDINGS I**  
**CHICAGO BUILDINGS—ALL DEPARTMENTS**



**MOUNDS**



**PEORIA**



**DANVILLE**



**ROODHOUSE**



**MT. CARMEL**

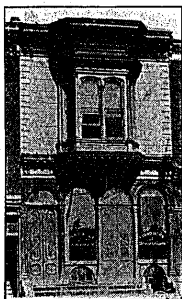


**URBANA**

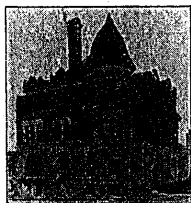
**GROUP II BUILDINGS II**  
**RAILROAD ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS**



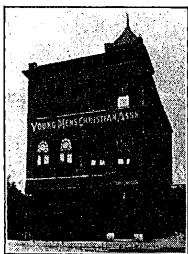
PEORIA



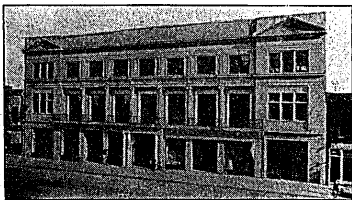
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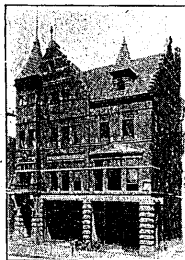
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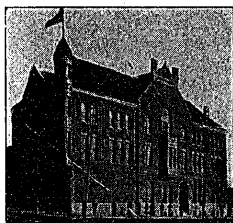
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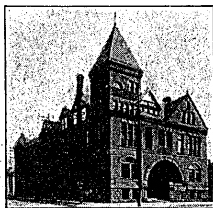
EVANSTON



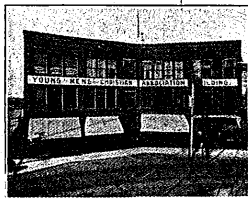
GALESBURG



QUINCY

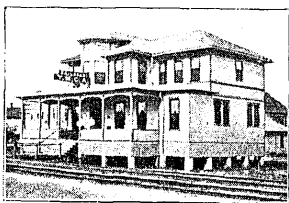


ROCK ISLAND



ELGIN

**GROUP OF BUILDINGS III**  
**BUILDINGS IN CITIES ABOVE 20,000**



MOUNDS



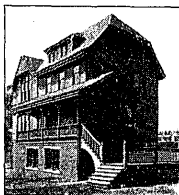
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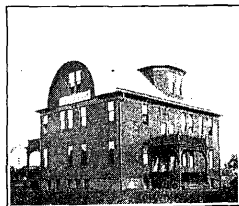
DANVILLE



ROODHOUSE

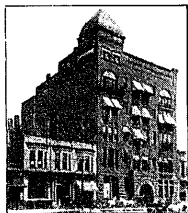


MT. CARMEL

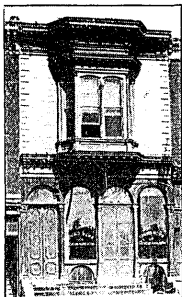


URBANA

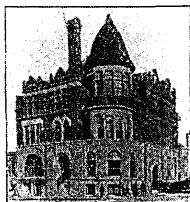
GROUP OF BUILDINGS II  
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS



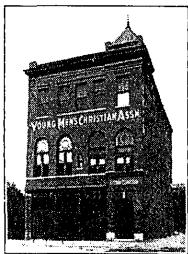
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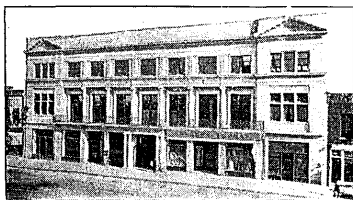
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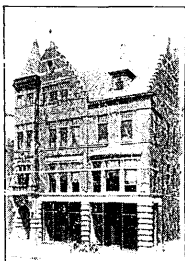
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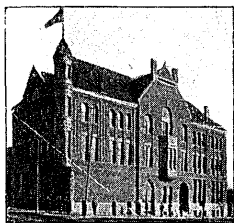
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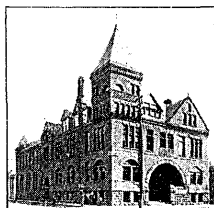
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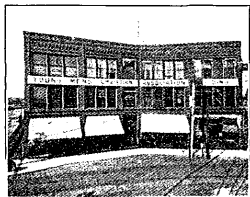
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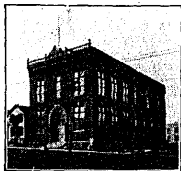
ROCK ISLAND



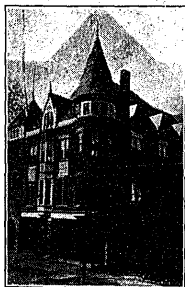
ELGIN

GROUP OF BUILDINGS III  
BUILDINGS IN CITIES ABOVE 20,000

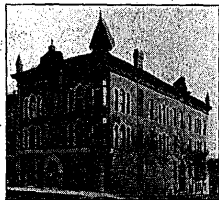




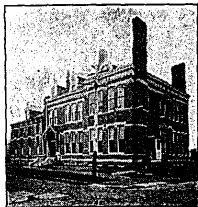
**BELVIDERE**



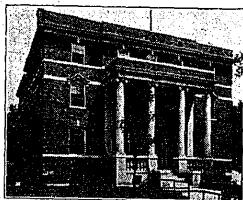
**PANA**



**FREEPORT**



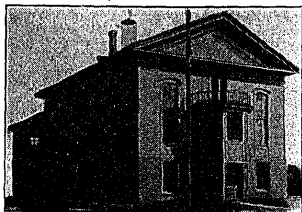
**JACKSONVILLE**



**OAK PARK**



**KEWANEE**



**MONMOUTH**

**GROUP OF BUILDINGS IV**  
**BUILDINGS IN CITIES UNDER 20,000**

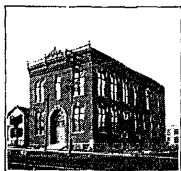


**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA**

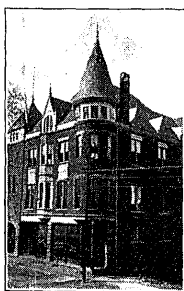


**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
EVANSTON**

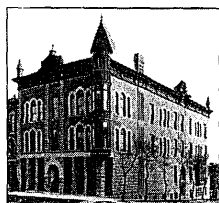
**GROUP OF BUILDINGS V  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS**



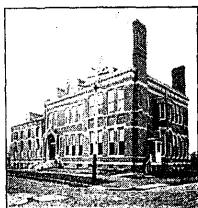
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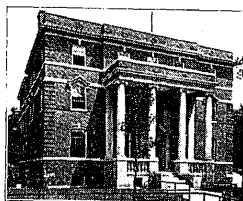
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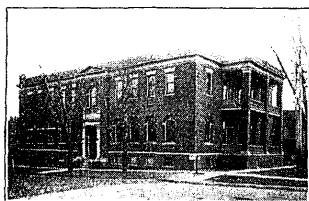
FREEPORT



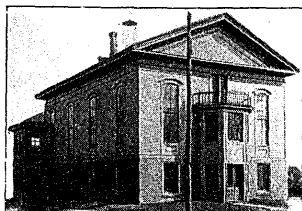
JACKSONVILLE



OAK PARK



KEWANEE



MONMOUTH

GROUP OF BUILDINGS IV  
BUILDINGS IN CITIES UNDER 20,000



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
EVANSTON

GROUP OF BUILDINGS V  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS

## Endowment

For the proper endowment of the present work of the State Executive Committee at least \$500,000 is needed. If there is taken into account the needs which lie immediately before us, that amount must be increased to \$600,000. Under a most conservative estimate the following table shows immediate needs, on a five per cent basis:

|                                           | Income.   |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dept. of General Administration \$225,000 | \$11,250  |
| Railroad and City Department.. 140,000    | 7,000     |
| County Department..... 60,000             | 3,000     |
| Student Department..... 50,000            | 2,500     |
| Correspondence Department..... 25,000     | 1,250     |
|                                           | <hr/>     |
| Total .....                               | \$25,000  |
|                                           | <hr/>     |
|                                           | \$500,000 |

## Form of Endowment Note

On or before.....years after date, I promise to pay to the State Executive Committee, Illinois Young Men's Christian Associations, the sum of .....Dollars, (\$.....), the same being a contribution to the endowment fund of said Committee. I hereby agree to pay interest annually on the same, at the rate of.....per cent. (.....%), per annum at the office of the Committee. In the event of my death, prior to the maturity of this note, it shall become due at my death, and the principal and accrued interest shall be paid out of my estate.

This note is in consideration of the gifts of others to said Committee.

(Signed) .....

Date .....

Witnesses: .....

## Form of Bequest

I give, devise and bequeath unto the "State Executive Committee, Illinois Young Men's Christian Associations," the sum of.....Dollars.

.....

Signed by the said.....  
as and for his last will and testament, in the presence  
of us, who, at his request, in his presence, and in the  
presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our  
names as witnesses:

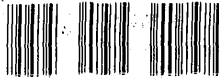
.....

.....

(To be signed by not less than two witnesses).



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